

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCA-01 PPT-02 CPR-02 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7194

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 4493

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, RO

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL VISAS

REF: A) BUCHAREST A-250; B) STATE 2377170

1. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF REQUESTS FOR DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL VISAS WITH IOSIF MOLDOVAN, COUNSELOR IN CHARGE OF PASSPORT AND VISA MATTERS IN MFA CONSULAR DIRECTORATE. IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT ACTION ON US SIDE COULD BE ASSURED IN THREE-FIVE WORKING DAYS ON APPLICATIONS ON A, G AND C-3 VISAS BUT NOT REPEAT NOT IN SPLEX CASES. WHILE MAINTAINING THAT ROMANIA WANTS TO SIMPLIFY VISA PROCEDURES ON ALL FRONTS WITH US TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, MOLDOVAN SAID OUR MORE LIMITED PROPOSAL STILL STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION.

2. STATING THAT ORIGINAL PROPOSAL CAME FROM ROMANIAN SIDE, MOLDOVAN MADE SUGGESTION, WHICH EMBOFFS ACCEPTED, THAT ROMANIANS DRAFT NOTE SETTING OUT WHAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO OFFER, ON BASIS OF RECIPROCITY, IN VISA AREA. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ROMANIAN PROPOSALS WOULD GO FARTHER THAN US SIDE CAN ACCEPT. ONCE WE HAVE STUDIED THEIR NOTE, WE SHOULD THEN INDICATE THROUGH A NOTE OF OUR OWN WHICH STEPS WE AGREE TO. THE UNDERSTANDING WOULD GO INTO EFFECT AT THAT TIME. MOLDOVAN FURTHER INDICATED THAT ROMANIAN NOTE WOULD CONTAIN SUGGESTION THAT BOTH SIDES ISSUE DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL VISAS TO ACCREDITED OFFICIALS "FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR ASSIGNMENT." THIS, HE CLAIMED,

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WOULD OBVIATE THE NEED FOR ROMANIAN AND US OFFICIALS STATIONED

IN EACH OTHER'S COUNTRY TO RENEW THEIR VISAS EVERY YEAR, AS NOW IS THE CASE.

3. WE WILL REPORT CONTENTS OF ROMANIAN NOTE, ALONG WITH OUR SUGGESTED RESPONSE, TO DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS IT AVAILABLE.

4. ON ANOTHER MATTER, WE NOTE THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN LAST TWO WEEKS IN NUMBERS OF FAMILIES RECEIVING PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE. HOWEVER, SEVERAL ROMANIANS WHO HAVE BEEN WAITING LONG PERIODS FOR TOURIST PASSPORTS HAVE RECEIVED APPROVAL RECENTLY AND IN MANNER THAT LED THEM TO BELIEVE THAT CEAUSESCU VISIT TO US WAS RESPONSIBLE (SEVERAL APPLICANTS HAVE BEEN PHONED AT HOME AND TOLD TO PICK UP PASSPORTS, AN UNUSUAL OCCURANCE UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES).
BRAMANTE

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